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July 14, 2000

Via Hand-Delivery

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Mr. Steve Ritchie, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California's Water Future: A Framework for Action

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Recreational Boaters of California is alarmed that there is no confirmation within the document entitled "California's Water Future: A Framework for Action" that the negative impacts the project will have on recreational boating will be mitigated, or that the interests of the recreational boating community will be protected and enhanced.

Recreational Boaters of California is the nonprofit lobbying organization that promotes the interests of recreational boaters from throughout the state.

Recreational Boaters has been attempting to participate in the CALFED process. This has included the submission of formal comments in connection with the draft programmatic EIR/EIS. These comments identified specific, negative impacts on recreational boating and requested mitigations. A copy of the comment letter is enclosed.

Our organization has also participated in the meetings and discussions of the Delta Ad Hoc Recreation Committee that have involved CALFED staff, the Department of Boating and Waterways, and the Delta Protection Commission. This process produced three separate letters to CALFED that identified specific negative impacts, accompanied by requests for specific mitigations. A copy of each of these letters is also enclosed.

Once again, we must speak on behalf of the thousands of recreational boating enthusiasts who will be impacted by CALFED. We urge that the following be addressed in the Framework document:

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Executive Director

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1. That CALFED recognize recreational boaters as stakeholders in the process.
2. That CALFED commit to involve recreational boaters in all aspects of the process as participants in a recreation advisory committee.
3. That CALFED incorporate a master recreation plan that sets forth mitigations, protections, enhancements and improvements for recreation including boating.
4. That CALFED set aside funds for implementation of the master recreation plan.

The specific text that we propose for addition to the Framework to accomplish this is as follows:

CALFED recognizes recreational boaters as stakeholders in the process. CALFED commits to involve recreational boaters in all aspects of the process as participants in a recreation advisory committee that shall be established for this purpose. CALFED will incorporate a master recreation plan, that is developed through the efforts of the recreation advisory committee, setting forth mitigations, protections, enhancements and improvements for recreation including boating. CALFED commits to set aside funds for implementation of the master recreation plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on the Framework document. I can be reached at 619-523-2110, or contact our legislative advocate, Jerry Desmond, Jr., at 916-441-4166.

Sincerely,



Bill Lewis, President

- C: The Honorable Gray Davis, Governor
The Honorable Jim Costa, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources
The Honorable Maurice Johannessen, Chair, Senate Select Committee on CALFED
The Honorable Mike Machado, Chair, Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife

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